



Middle Tennessee Chapter

A 2023 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



Web: <https://www.mtcmoaa.org>

February 2025

Editor: Doug Minton

Next MTC Monthly Meeting:

25 February 2025; 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
"Reflections on Leadership"
Lt General Jason Evans. USA Retired
CEO, OSDTN
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin TN
37069

Lieutenant General Jason T. Evans, USA Retired has over 30 years of serving in and leading the Army’s most prominent complex Human Resources commands and organizations.

As an accomplished strategic leader, he has extensive command and staff experience at every level of the Army. His postings include Italy, Somalia, Kosovo, Germany and Iraq. The General had various command assignments with the 13th Corps Support Command, III U.S. Corps to include the 510th Personnel Services Battalion, 1st Personnel Command U.S. Army Europe, Allied Forces Southern Europe, Headquarters Installation Management Command, Multi-National Forces – Iraq, Army Human Resources Command, Army G-1, and Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army. His career culminated in serving as the Army’s first Deputy Chief of Staff, G9 (Installations). In this role, he oversaw budget management of a \$18 billion portfolio and policy development, and he led key initiatives to improve the quality of life for 1.1 million soldiers and their families. He possesses over 30 years of human resources experience, including policy development, talent management and overseeing Army-wide HR strategies.

He holds an AA degree in Business Administration from Wentworth Military Academy, bachelor’s degree in business administration from Bellevue University, NE and master’s degrees in business administration and national resource strategy from Webster University, AR and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, DC.

Jason and his wife, Machele, high school sweethearts with over 39 years of marriage, have three children and four grandchildren.

Lieutenant General Evans has been announced as the incoming CEO of Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN) and will assume this position upon the retirement of Brigadier General Eden Murrie (MTC Member) in March 2025.

Officers

- President**
CAPT Larry Cotton, USN (ret.)
- 1st Vice President**
Col Dale Kiser, USAF (Ret)
- 2nd Vice President** (Vacant)
- Secretary and Membership Chair**
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- Treasurer**
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Lt Col Karon Uzzell-Baggett, USAF (Ret.)
- Surviving Spouse Liaison**
Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
- Chaplain & Legislative Liaison**
CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)
- Transition Services Coordinator**
Lt Col Arlie Haddix, USAF (Ret.)

Chapter Contact Information

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2025 Middle TN Chapter Dues

Our Chapter will send out its dues notice this month. Your Board has evaluated the increasing operational costs that we are encountering but feel that we can hold the annual dues at \$25.00 for at least one more year. The online dues payment portal is again available for MTC members to use for online payments. You can reach it by going to the MOAA website, then click on the About MOAA page, followed by the Councils & Chapters page or you can use this link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/online-chapter-dues-payment-administration/>. Scroll down to Tennessee, Middle TN Chapter and follow the instructions from there. If you prefer to use USPS, there will be a return envelope for your cash or check, enclosed in our forthcoming dues letter.

President’s Letter

Thanks to everyone who attended the Annual Report to Members at the January luncheon. I hope you feel confident in the Board’s oversight of the chapter’s various activities, including charity giving, scholarships, surviving spouse support, veteran community outreach and engagement, legislative advocacy as well as overall budgetary management.

Hopefully you find membership in our chapter rewarding and enjoyable, and want to continue with us! We have begun our annual Membership Campaign, and I ask you to send in your dues as soon as you can! We were able to keep the dues at \$25 this year, despite increasing costs for everything from stamps to certificates and medals for ROTC & JROTC Leadership Award winners. With careful management of our luncheon estimates and costs, we have also been able to keep the lunch costs stable at \$25 without having to regularly subsidize luncheons with money from our operating budget. Please bring your dues to our February luncheon, mail them to “MTC MOAA, P.O Box 50252, Nashville, TN 37205” or use the new Dues Portal on MOAA’s site at <https://www.moaa.org/content/chapters-and-councils/online-chapter-dues-payment-administration/> and be sure to scroll down to

“Tennessee” for “Middle Tennessee Chapter”! While MOAA National is busy getting ready for its annual “Advocacy in Action” event in Washington in April, several of our members participated in the TN Veterans (TNVET) “Veterans Day on the Hill” event locally on January 29th. Ted Edwards, Thad Vann, Doug Minton, and I visited our local State Representatives and Senators supporting four initiatives that TNVET is focused on for this year’s session. Additionally, we visited multiple legislators who did not have veteran constituents in attendance. It was an interesting day, and I think we made some headway in awareness with the legislators. Of course, we will let you know if any items are successful!

At the January luncheon, Dale Kiser demonstrated accessing MOAA’s Legislative Action Center (LAC) at <https://moaa.quorum.us>. It is the easiest way for you to support veteran-related legislative action at the national level. This year MOAA’s advocacy priorities were listed in January’s “Military Officer” magazine. If you did not see it, you can read about them at the following link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/advocacy/moaa-legislative-priorities-for-the-119th-congress/>.

Finally, I am excited about our speaker at our next luncheon: Lt Gen Jason Evans, USA Retired who is the new CEO of Operation Stand Down Tennessee. His topic is “Reflections on Leadership.” Our luncheon will be at 11:30 am on Tuesday, February 25th at Old Natchez Country Club. See you then!

Larry Cotton, CAPT, US Navy (ret.)
President

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 50252
Nashville, TN 37205-0252



Happy 96th Birthday to MOAA,
founded 23 February, 1929.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Programs & Events

25 February 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“Reflections on Leadership”

Lt. General Jason Evans, USA Retired
(Newly announced) Incoming CEO of OSDTN
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

6 March 2025; 7- 8 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

25 March 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Monthly Luncheon Meeting
“ TN Department of Veterans Services”
MG Tommy Baker, USA Retired
Commissioner

ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

3 April 2025; 7-8 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

22 April 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MTC Annual Personal Affairs Meeting
“Conservatorship in Tennessee”

Ms. Amy Bryant
Director, Office of Conservatorship Management
Metro Nashville
OSDTN, 12th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37203

1 May 2025; 7 - 8 AM

“MTC Monthly Board Meeting”

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

27 May 2025; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

“Spouses/Surviving Spouses”

Mrs. Patricia Bergquist
MTC Surviving Spouse Liaison
ONCC, 115 Gardengate Drive, Franklin, TN 37069

5 June 2025; 7 - 8 AM

‘MTC Monthly Board Meeting’

NGATN , 4332 Kenilwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37204

Legislative Update

Information reaching us from MOAA Headquarters is that 100 members of the 119th Congress have served in our armed forces. That may not seem like a lot, but it is an increase over the 118th Congress. There is good reason for optimism with that increase, because it tells two things: one is that the culture is changing to bring military and naval leaders to offer themselves for legislative service and the second is that the voters are valuing that kind of leadership.

This is a dramatic shift from the October article in Military Officer about how the rate of military service in Congress had dropped over decades from about 80% to 18% -- with the result being that those making critical decisions about personnel matters and arms purchasing lack the experience and expertise to make those things happen and happen well.

Not coincidentally, recent recruiting numbers are way up. Will ROTC and JROTC participation rise, too?

And so I wonder whether that kind of change will happen in our Tennessee Legislature in the next election. I don’t have numbers, but change is always happening. Life happens at the speed of change.

For those of us attending the Tennessee Veterans (TNVET) “Veterans Day on the Hill” in late January, changes have come to the list of four issues for which TNVET is lobbying. The list of the four issues came with last month’s column. There is a joint bill JHR001 which memorializes Congress to begin action to bring Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy availability to the veteran’s community. This process effectively treats traumatic brain injury and PTSD patients. We learned that there is an under-availability of this in the medical community for civilians as well as veterans and that is a very expensive process. We also learned that there will not be state initiatives until there are already federal actions, so this will take years to accomplish; thus, the Legislature is memorializing Congress to begin. Expect this matter to last for years.

And as if by coincidence: the evening before Vets Day there was a contestant on *Jeopardy Tournament of Champions* who had recovered from traumatic brain injury through Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy and testified to its effectiveness.

CDR Ted Edwards, USN (ret.)
MTC Legislative Liaison